

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Applicants have amended Claim 5 to incorporate the limitations of canceled Claim 11. Accordingly, support for amended Claim 5 can be found in Claims 5 and 11, as previously presented.

No new matter has been added. Claims 5-8 and 12-23 are active in this application.

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Zucker for indicating that Claims 12-15 and 17-23 are allowed, and that Claim 11 was only objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants submit that, in view of the present amendments and remarks, all of the pending claims are allowable.

The rejection of Claims 5-9 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,510,508 (Claude et al) has been obviated by appropriate amendment. As the Examiner will note, Applicants have amended Claim 5 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 11. Applicants submit that amended Claim 5, and the claims dependent thereon, are patentable for the same reasons that Claim 11 was indicated as being allowable.

Accordingly, the rejections should be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 24-29 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, has been obviated by the cancellation of these claims. Accordingly, the rejection is no longer tenable and should be withdrawn.

Lastly, Applicants note that an Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") was filed on July 19, 2004. However, no initialed Form PTO 1449 for this IDS was returned with the Office Action. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner return an initialed copy of

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the Form PTO 1449 for the IDS filed on July 19, 2004, with the next communication from the PTO.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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